

ASSOCIATED PRESS.

FEBRUARY 11, 1962

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R.B. RUSSELL
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APBNI (POWERS & BTD)

SECOND LEAD CONGRESS-POWERS (300)

WASHINGTON, FEB. 11 (AP)-CHAIRMAN RICHARD B. RUSSELL, D-GA., SAID TODAY THAT U2 PILOT FRANCIS GARY POWERS WILL BE CALLED BEFORE THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE FOR TESTIMONY IF COMMITTEE MEMBERS WISH.

BUT AT THE SAME TIME RUSSELL SAID AGENTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH ARE ENTITLED TO FINISH THEIR OWN INTERVIEWS FIRST.

RUSSELL SAID DIRECTOR JOHN A. MCCONE OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY HAS PROMISED HIS COMMITTEE "WILL BE FULLY BRIEFED AS TO ALL THE FACTS IN THE CASE."

THE SENATOR'S STATEMENT CAME ON THE HEELS OF WORD FROM PRESIDENT KENNEDY THAT POWERS WILL BE FREE TO TESTIFY IN CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS AFTER A SERIES OF INTERROGATIONS IS COMPLETED.

AT HIS NEWS CONFERENCE, KENNEDY SAID THE 32-YEAR-OLD FLIER IS "COOPERATING VOLUNTARILY WITH THE GOVERNMENT" IN THE INQUIRIES NOW BEING CARRIED OUT, AND IS A "FREE AGENT."

POWERS, IMPRISONED AS A SPY AFTER HIS HIGH-FLYING RECONNAISSANCE PLANE WAS DOWNED INSIDE THE SOVIET UNION, WAS FREED SATURDAY IN EXCHANGE FOR RUDOLF ABEL, CONVICTED IN THIS COUNTRY AS A SOVIET MASTER SPY. SINCE HIS RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES POWERS HAS BEEN KEPT IN SECLUSION WITH ONLY HIS WIFE AND PARENTS TAKEN TO SEE HIM.

RUSSELL SAID, IN A STATEMENT, HE WAS SOMEWHAT SURPRISED THAT "SOME MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS THINK THAT MR. POWERS SHOULD HAVE BEEN MADE AVAILABLE FOR A CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNDER THE KLEIG LIGHTS BEFORE HE WAS EVEN EXAMINED BY THE APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT."

RUSSELL SAID AN ARMED SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CIA WAS ADVISED OF "NEGOTIATION THEN UNDER WAY FOR THE EXCHANGE THAT RESULTED IN THE RELEASE OF MR. FRANCIS POWERS."

HE ADDED THAT MCCONE "HAS OFFERED TO MAKE MR. POWERS AVAILABLE FOR A HEARING BY THE COMMITTEE IF THE COMMITTEE SO DESIRES."

"THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE WHICH HAS LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT OVER THE CIA WILL GET ALL OF THE INFORMATION IN REGARD TO THIS CASE IN DUE SEASON, BUT THE COMMITTEE THINKS IT PROPER TO AWAIT THE COMPLETION OF THE INQUIRY NOW BEING CONDUCTED BY THE APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH," RUSSELL ADDED.

KENNEDY SAID CONGRESS WILL GET THE PRODUCT OF THAT INQUIRY.

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TRIBUTE TO SENATOR RUSSELL

Mrs. SMITH of Maine. Mr. President, that distinguished and brilliant commentator, Tristram P. Coffin, recently made a broadcast that captured a delightful insight of the senior Senator from Georgia [Mr. RUSSELL] that has never been captured before to my knowledge. It is this type of interpretative reporting which sets Tris Coffin apart from his journalistic colleagues.

Because of its excellence and because of the great interest that Members of the Senate have in the senior Senator from Georgia, I would like to read excerpts from this broadcast of Tris Coffin:

Senator RUSSELL of Georgia is the kind of gentleman any young lady would love to have as an uncle. He possesses an old-fashioned courtesy that is charming. He is worldly wise and tolerant of human frailties. He has a vast amiability that smooths over troubled moments.

All of these admirable qualities were on display a few days ago in the small Senate Armed Services Committee room, which has the air of a well-run antique shop: two sparkling cutglass chandeliers, a long table covered with green felt, pitchers of ice water. None of the confused modern contraptions of microphones that don't work and boom out squeaks and assorted noises into loud-speakers. None of the blasted glare of floodlights for television cameras. A quiet, contented, gracious air.

Senator RUSSELL was presiding at the hearing on the confirmation of John McCone as

Director of Central Intelligence. * * * Senator RUSSELL was in good humor at the hearing. During the interrogation of the new Navy Secretary, an earnest Senator CASE of South Dakota worried about the Secretary's position on beef for the boys. Senator RUSSELL said amiably, "Do you have any strong feelings on oleo?"

Another appointee admitted to being a Harvard professor. Senator RUSSELL inquired solicitously. "How are the new professors getting along up there? Have they had time to find their way about the campus yet?"

Then, abstractedly, he asked, "I wonder when they are going to discover the oldest State university in the country?" "They" meant President Kennedy and "the oldest State university" is the beloved University of Georgia at Athens, Ga., where Greek literature is read in the original.

A nonmember of the committee, Senator EUGENE MCCARTHY, came to the table, at the chairman's invitation, and began to read a statement hardly complimentary to McCone. Senator RUSSELL took this philosophically, with the professionally calm air of an indulgent uncle. * * * Senator RUSSELL said soothingly in his pleasant Georgia voice, "Mr. McCone will have wide scope in replying."

Once, Senator RUSSELL leaned over and whispered an aside to Senator SALTONSTALL. That gentleman's face broke into a smile of pure joy, and all around the table other Senators sat up with glowing and amused looks. John McCone's blue eyes showed the hint of a glint. The press table boys grinned as if they had heard a delicious secret. Of course, none of us, except Senator SALTONSTALL, had any idea what Senator RUSSELL said.

It just shows the power of the man's personality. Maybe, come to think of it, the administration ought to investigate the products of the oldest State university.

This is Tris Coffin in Washington.